

WHO IS DRAFTING ECONOMIC POLICY?

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, something does not fit. There is civil war in Mexico. The peso is so low it could walk under a closed door with a top hat on. Mexico's biggest business is narcotics and they end up on the streets in America. Up north Canada just dodged a bullet. They almost voluntarily self-destructed.

After all this I keep reading the papers telling us how great the economy is. Well, if that is the case, how come wages keep going down? Workers are afraid of losing their house.

Tell me, Mr. Speaker, why is individual debt so high in America? Why are savings so low in America? And after all this, this administration wants a free-trade agreement with Chile. I ask today on the House floor, who is drafting our economic policies in America? Larry, Moe, and Curly, or a bunch of bureaucratic masochists who never stood in an unemployment line and are so dumb they could throw themselves at the ground and miss.

THE DEVIL IS IN THE DENIAL

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor to follow my colleague from Ohio in these morning sessions.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, I thought I would illustrate a couple of differences between our budget plan, the conservative commonsense budget plan, and what the White House has offered. This is the budget reconciliation package. Yes, it is lengthy. Yes, it is exhaustive. But yes, it is complete. We have managed to do in less than 40 weeks what the liberals could not do in 40 years. That is, change the size and scope of the Federal Government.

On the other hand, here is the President's plan, such as it exists. Some interesting charts, a few talking points, but, Mr. Speaker, the devil is not in the details. The devil is in the denial.

As our Speaker and the leader of the other body go down to the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue to meet the President, I wonder which President will show up.

I hope it is the President who says he is for a balanced budget in 7 years. I hope it is the President who says he wants a tax cut for the middle class. I hope it is the President who says he wants welfare reform. If it is that President, Mr. Speaker, let him join with us to balance this budget and get this country back on track.

WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

(Mr. HILLIARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, just like the wolf that hid in a sheepskin to kill his prey, so have the Republicans attempted to act as though they were trying to save Medicare.

But finally, finally, the Republicans have shown us their true colors, as evidenced by Senator DOLE and Speaker GINGRICH's comments that they are really voting to kill Medicare.

The Republican leaders comments on Medicare shows us that when it comes to delivering to the rich of America the obscene and bloated Republican-sponsored tax break, that they will say anything and even sell out America's seniors to appease their rich masters.

Well, America is finally getting wise to the Republican half-truths and lies.

Senator DOLE opposed Medicare in 1965, and he also opposes it in 1995.

Just like the wolf in sheep's clothing, the Republicans have attempted to lure our seniors into a false sense of security, but Senator DOLE's comments to the Conservative Union and the Speaker's comments to Blue Cross/Blue Shield have helped us sound the alarm bell to warn our seniors so we may avert this disaster.

WHO ARE THE WOLVES?

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, talk about wolves in sheep's clothing. My gosh, we have got the Democratic President telling us that Medicare goes bankrupt by the year 2002. Then they backpedal for the next 6 months saying we do not have to do anything about Medicare and anybody who does anything about Medicare to save Medicare is somehow a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Talk about a wolf in sheep's clothing on the budget issue. We have got a President who, as a candidate, said as President I would present a 5-year plan to balance the budget.

The freshman class presented that. MARK NEUMANN presented that. I do not see the President supporting that.

Then the Republicans come up with a 7-year plan that the President opposes. He says we can do it in 10 years. Then in New Hampshire he says, "Well, I think it can be done in 7 years in May." Then in a press conference in October he says, "I think we can reach it in 7 years."

"I think we could reach it in 8 years." "I think we could reach it in 9 years."

I am confused. Help me out, Mr. President, make up your mind and side on the side of the American people.

MEDICARE

(Mr. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the morning after Halloween, we awake to find that the majority has been out all

night playing trick or treat with senior citizens and Medicare.

The treat was supposed to be fixing Medicare and the trick is that the plan all along was to dismantle Medicare one step at a time.

The leader of the other body is actually proud that he opposed Medicare in 1965. Is this the same person who is assuring seniors that he has come to save Medicare, not to bury it?

And in a second surprise after the budget votes, the majority leadership finally admits that this is the first step in dismantling the program, and that the plan is to let Medicare wither on the vine.

If these guys were doctors, they might be accused of practicing Dr. Krevorkian medicine.

If they were used car salesmen, they might be eligible for salesmen of the month.

But since they are the fix Medicare gang, we need to expose the Halloween charade and defend the best health care program this country offers for seniors. No more trick or treat. How about straight talk on Medicare.

CONTROVERSY OVER CASTRO

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the award for the most deplorable idolizing of Cuban tyrant Fidel Castro during his recent United States visit goes to my Democrat colleague from the Bronx, who handed the dictator a pair of boxing gloves engraved with "Fidel is #1."

Castro is No. 1 in human rights violations. He is No. 1 in persecution of political opposition. He is No. 1 in detainment of political prisoners. He is No. 1 in the persecution of the free press. So those gloves fit Castro to a tee.

However, given the hugs and accolades my colleague laid on Castro, I doubt that the "Fidel is #1" slogan was intended to refer to those Castro characteristics. It was another pathetic display of the obvious disregard some have for the repression that Castro imposes on the people of Cuba, and for the millions who struggle against his tyranny. Maybe Castro should return the favor by sending our colleague a pair of gloves engraved: "Castro's #1 pawn."

WE CANNOT LET MEDICARE DIE ON THE VINE

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of this House has indicated that he wants Medicare to die on the vine. That is his quote.